REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are currently pending. By this Amendment, claims 7, 19 and 22-24 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 7, 19 and 24 can be found in the specification, for example, at page 21, line 25 - page 22, line 13. Support for the amendments to claims 22-24 can be found in the specification, for example, at page 10, lines 11-18. No new matter is added.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 9-13 are allowed and that claims 3, 20 and 21 contain allowable subject matter. However, Applicant respectfully submits that all the claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed below.

Claims 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. By this Amendment, claims 22-24 are amended as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant thus respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 14, 15, 19, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Bobo (U.S. Patent No. 6,350,066); and claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bobo in view of Thames et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0145281). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Bobo and Thames, alone or in a permissible combination, do not teach or suggest every claimed feature of independent claims 1, 7, 14, 19, 22 and 24. Bobo and Thames do not teach or suggest "an access determining unit that determines whether to allow access to the image data associated with the communication details of the facsimile transmission based on contents of the communication details," as recited in independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in independent claims 14 and 22. Neither reference also does not teach or suggest "the page generating unit generates the list page having the hyperlinks only to the image data for which the access determining unit allows access and conceals the hyperlinks associated with

the image data for which access is not allowed," as recited in independent claim 7, and as similarly recited in independent claims 19 and 24 (emphasis added).

The Office Action asserts that Bobo teaches the claimed access determining unit at col. 8, lines 23-36 of Bobo (see Office Action, page 4). However, this passage of Bobo merely discloses that a user may access a mailbox with all received messages by inputting their user ID and password (see col. 8, lines 31-36 of Bobo). In other words, Bobo merely discloses that access will be granted to all communications in the mailbox, or that access will be denied to all communications (see col. 8, lines 31-36 of Bobo). Therefore, Bobo does not teach or suggest determining whether to allow access based on contents of the communication details, as recited in independent claims 1, 14 and 22.

Further, all of the alleged hyperlinks of Bobo are displayed when the user inputs their user ID and password (see col. 8, lines 31-36 of Bobo). Therefore, Bobo does not teach or suggest concealing the hyperlinks associated with image data to which access is not allowed, as recited in independent claims 7, 19 and 24.

Further, Thames does not remedy the deficiencies of Bobo. Thames is applied by the Office Action only for its alleged teaching of a display for displaying a webpage via an e-mail communication (see Office Action, page 10).

Therefore, for at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 7, 14, 19, 22 and 24 are patentable over any alleged combination of Bobo and Thames. Claims 2, 4, 5, 8 and 15, which variously depend from independent claims 1 and 7, are also patentable for at least their dependency on independent claims 1 and 7, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicant thus respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

Claims 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Eguchi et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0117666) in view of Tanimoto (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0103242). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Eguchi and Tanimoto, alone or in a permissible combination, do not teach or suggest every claimed feature of independent claim 16. Eguchi and Tanimoto do not teach or suggest "the access determining unit determines whether to allow access to the image data when the image data is transmitted or received through facsimile communications," as recited in independent claim 16 (emphasis added).

The Office Action asserts that steps S204 - S207 of Eguchi, as disclosed in Fig. 12, teach the above feature. However, these steps merely relate to creating an e-mail to be transmitted, and deciding whether or not to attach image data based on whether corresponding image data was transmitted (see Fig. 12 of Eguchi). Eguchi does not relate to granting or denying access to a facsimile communication transmitted or received. Therefore, Eguchi does not teach or suggest determining whether to allow access to the image data, as recited in independent claim 16.

Further, Tanimoto does not remedy the above-described deficiencies of Eguchi. Tanimoto is applied by the Office Action only for its alleged teaching of an image storing unit for storing image data and communication details (see Office Action, pages 12 and 13).

Therefore, independent claim 16 is patentable over any alleged combination of Eguchi and Tanimoto. Claims 17 and 18, which depend from independent claim 16, are also patentable for at least their dependency on independent claim 16, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicant thus respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kida et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,293,253) in view of Oba et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,072,599). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kida and Oba, alone or in a permissible combination, do not teach or suggest every claimed feature of claim 23. Kida and Oba do not teach or suggest "a program of storing image data transmitted or received through facsimile communications ... [and] a program of

determining whether to allow access to the image data," as recited in claim 23 (emphasis added).

The Office Action asserts that Kida teaches the above feature at col. 10, lines 1-5 (see Office Action, page 15). However, the facsimile apparatus of Kida, when the calling station is not registered in the RAM, only receives the TSI signal <u>before determining</u> whether to complete the facsimile transmission and thus receive image data as well (see col. 9, line 66 - col. 10, line 19). Thus, Kida merely discloses a facsimile apparatus that determines whether to accept image data <u>that has not yet been transmitted or received</u> (see col. 7, line 66 - col. 10, line 19 of Kida). Therefore, Kida does not teach or suggest a program that determines whether to allow access to image data that has been transmitted or received through facsimile communications, as recited in independent claim 23.
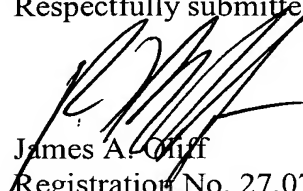
Further, Oba does not remedy the deficiencies of Kida. Oba is applied by the Office Action only for its alleged teaching of a facsimile device for receiving a facsimile data and storing both the received facsimile data for printing and the communication details (see Office Action, page 16).

Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 23 is patentable over any alleged combination of Kida and Oba. Applicant thus respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

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